83. Needs of the Trivandrum town.

MR. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that the State-Aided Bank of Travancore should be converted into a Government Bank and the large sums deposited in the Imperial Bank of India should be invested in the new Government Bank. Loans should be issued to the trading classes at a low rate of interest from the above deposits. This would give a great impetus to the commercial development of the State.

Arrangements should be made for accepting the Travancore coins in all the banks in the State, including the Imperial Bank. The trading community suffered much owing to the absence of such an arrangement. Under the existing practice, Travancore coins had first to be remitted to the Government treasuries for conversion into British coins and then remitted into the Imperial Bank, resulting in great loss of time and inconvenience to the merchants.

The Trivandrum Village Panchayat Court should be shifted to a suitable building at Chalai. The location of the Court at Pazhavangadi was a source of great inconvenience to the traders of the town, to whom the Court mainly afforded relief.

Only persons who were qualified and who were free from bribery and other corrupt practices should be appointed as judges of the Panchayat Court. The judges should also try to stamp out corruption among the subordinate staff. If the Court could not be made more useful, it had better be abolished and a small cause court opened instead.

The member next urged the need for widening the Sabhapathikoil street, the Karuppattikada road and the Marakada road in Chalai. There was much congestion of traffic on these roads.

The drains on both sides of Chalai roads were very narrow and highly insanitary. A drainage scheme should be worked out for the town at a very early date for improving the drainage system.

The Trivandrum Municipal Council had passed a resolution recommending the prohibition of rearing buffaloes in Chalai. But no orders had been passed on it yet. Early orders should be issued in the matter.

There were three arrack shops at Chalai within a small area of a quarter of a square mile. These shops should either be abolished or removed to some place outside the town limits.

Lastly, the member requested that immediate steps might be taken to prohibit unqualified persons from selling medicinal drugs or from carrying on medical practice.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Raman Pillai, it is not practicable, at the moment, for the State-Aided Bank to be converted into a Government institution. Government would have to pay at least seven lakhs of rupees for the purchase of shares and all the share-holders should be willing to sell their shares. They will also have to pay for all the assets, and will be saddled with all the liabilities. Government have

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only a current account with the Imperial Bank and have no fixed deposits there. The State-Aided Bank is trying to issue loans at as low an interest as possible. You have to consider the present economic depression and the stringency of the money market.

Under the Proclamation of the 15th November 1913, Travancore silver coins are legal tender in the State up to two rupees and copper coins up to one rupee. All the Banks in the State, including the Imperial Bank, are therefore bound to accept the coins up to that extent.

The question of shifting the Panchayat Court to another building will be considered after a report is received from the District Magistrate in the matter.

For judges for the Panchayat Courts, we try to get, as far as possible, people of status, education and respectability.

The Sabhapathikoil street and others no doubt need widening; but the acquisition of land for that purpose will be very expensive. We must, therefore, wait until there is more money available.

An estimate is being prepared for a drainage scheme in the town, and there is a sum of Rs. 5,000 provided in this year's budget. The matter, at present, is pending with the Municipal Council. We want to know how much the Council is prepared to contribute.

The Municipality has passed no resolution prohibiting the keeping of buffaloes in Chalai. All that the Council has done is to frame a set of bye-laws regulating buffalo-rearing in the town. That draft was sent back to the Council and it has formed a sub-committee to consider the question.

As I told the previous speaker, the question of removing elsewhere or abolishing the arrack shops within the municipal limits will wait until the whole question is considered and the result of the local option experiment at Changanachery is ascertained.

A draft bill for dealing with unqualified persons carrying on medical practice has been published for public criticism and the question of controlling the sale of drugs by unqualified persons will be considered.

84. Needs of the Trivandrum town.

MR. N. S. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) said that the citizens of Trivandrum and the local Municipal Council were highly grateful to the Government for the many benefits conferred on the inhabitants of the town at a very heavy outlay. It was, however, regrettable that the electrical extension in the town had not conferred the desired benefit, inasmuch as many roads with heavy traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, had not been provided with electric lights, while comparatively less important roads had been electrified. The extension of electric lighting should be done in consultation with the Municipal Council which was in charge of the lighting of the town. Again the Municipal Council was charged at the same rate as private consumers for the supply of energy by the Electrical Department. The Council being the biggest consumer of power should be charged at a concessional rate. The lighting grant

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